

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

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R 250932Z SEP 74

FM AMCONSUL TABRIZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 96

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL KHORRAMSHAHR

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L TABRIZ 0025

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, MPOL, PFOR, PINT, IR, IZ

SUBJ: IRAN-IRAQ AND THE KURDISH WAR: ADDENDUM

REF: A-TABRIZ 20 B-TEHRAN 7512

SUMMARY: KURDISH REFUGEES CONTINUE MOVING INTO IRAN. IRANIAN FIGURES OF NEARLY 80,000 PLUS REFUGEES CAN NOW BE CONFIRMED. IRANIAN TROOPS DEPLOYED ON BORDER IN ESSENTIALLY DEFENSIVE FORMATION BUT OPTIONS REMAIN OPEN. FOLLOWING ARE DETAILS FROM BORDER TRIP SEPTEMBER 12 TO 20. END SUMMARY.

1. NEARLY 80,000 KURDISH REFUGEES ARE NOW IN IRAN. APPROXIMATELY 28,000 IN WEST AZERBAIJAN PROVINCE REPORTED REFTEL B. IN KURDISTAN PROVINCE 6,500 ARE LOCATED IN CAMP 35 KILOMETERS EAST OF
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MARIVAN ON ROAD TO SANANDAJ. THIS AREA EXTREMELY MOUNTAINOUS AND

ON BASIS MY TOUR OF CAMP DO NOT BELIEVE THIS AREA COULD TAKE MANY MORE PEOPLE. CAMP ORDERLY AND RESEMBLES THOSE DESCRIBED REFTEL B. TWO THIRDS OF REFUGEES CHILDREN.

2. GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF KERMANSHAHAN PROVINCE, NORMALLY RELIABLE SOURCE, CLAIMS HIS PROVINCE NOW HOST TO 45,000 REFUGEES. THIS LARGE JUMP SINCE JUNE (TABRIZ 08) PARTIALLY CONFIRMED BY AMCIT ENGINEERS WORKING NEAR SANANDAJ WHO REPORT SEEING DAILY TRUCK CONVOYS MOVING REFUGEES IN DIRECTION KERMANSHAHAN DURING LAST MONTH OR MORE. I WITHDRAW SKEPTICISM ABOUT NUMBERS EXPRESSED REFTELS.

3. WINTER QUARTERS FOR KURDISTAN PROVINCE REFUGEES BEING BUILT ON MAIN SANANDAJ-KERMANSHAH ROAD ABOUT 15 KILOMETERS INSIDE KURDISTAN. WOULD ESTIMATE EIGHT TO TEN WEEKS NECESSARY TO FINISH BUILDINGS. CAMP APPEARS LARGE ENOUGH TO HOLD 10,000. ESTIMATE BASED ON COMPARISON WITH CAMPS SEEN REFTEL B. EIGHT WINTER CAMPS BEING BUILD KERMANSHAHAN PROVINCE. THESE, ACCORDING GOVGEN, ARE TO BE COMPLETE SMALL CITIES WHICH MAY SOMEDAY, HOPEFULLY, BE HANDED OVER TO IRANIAN FARMERS.

4. REFUGEES ENTERING MARIVAN AREA DIRECTLY FROM IRQA INDICATING THIS PORTION OF BORDER NOT COMPLETELY CLOSED DESPITE PRESENCE OF IRAQI TROOPS OTHER SIDE. MY OBSERVATION AGREE WITH STATEMENT SAVAK CHIEF MARIVAN THAT NO, RPT NO, MAJOR SUPPLIES MOVING FROM THIS AREA TO BARZANI KURDS. NO REFUGEES REPORTED MOVING DIRECTLY INTO KERMANSHAHAN. THIS HORDE APPARENTLY MOSTLY TRUCKED DOWN FROM WEST AZERBAIJAN.

5. IRANIAN ARMY UNITS HAVE DEPLOYED ALONG BORDER. AT LEAST TWO BRIGADES OF 64TH INFANTRY DIVISION ARE IN AREA PIRANSHAH TO SOUTH OF SARDASHT. SELF-PROPELLED 155 AND 8 INCH GUNS NEAR BORDER AND HEAVY 175'S BASED 20 TO 25 KILOMETERS BACK FROM BORDER. TWO BATTALIONS OF EKELETAL 28TH DIVISION HAVE MOVED FROM SANANDAJ TO LINE PARALLEL WITH BORDER ABOUT 15 KILOMETERS EAST OF MARIVAN. DIVISION HAS ONLY TOWED 105 ARTILLERY. NOT CLEAR WHERE THIS IS. ONE BRIGADE OF 81ST ARMORED DIVISION ON ALERT AT CAMP AT SAR-E POL-E QOHAB. ONE BRIGADE DEPLOYED ALONG RAOD FROM THIS POINT TO QASR-E SHIRIN. THIRD BRIGADE IN RESERVE AT BISTUN WITH ONE BATTALION ALWAYS ON THIRTY MINUTE ALERT. ARMED AIRCRAFT FROM TABRIZ
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AND AIRBASE NEAR HAMADAN ARE FLYING REGULAR BORDER PATROLS.

6. REINFORCEMENTS, POSSIBLY FROM 16TH DIVISION, HAVE APPARENTLY MOVED TO HAMADAN AREA. CANNOT CONFIRM NUMBERS BUT MORE TANKS AND OTHER VEHICLES WERE PARKED IN HAMADAN THAN I HAVE SEEN PREVIOUSLY. ALSO SAW ABOUT 25 TANK CARRIERS MOVING EMPTY FROM HAMADAN IN DIRECTION QASVIN WHICH SUGGESTS DELIVERY OF TANKS TO HAMADAN. WHILE

OPTIONS OBVIOUSLY OPEN, DEPLOYMENTS APPEAR BASICALLY DEFENSIVE. THIS SUPPORTED BY FACT MUCH OF TOWED ARTILLERY OF 64TH, 81ST, AND POSSIBLY 28TH DIVISIONS STILL NOT MOVED FORWARD.

7. I FOUND NO EVIDENCE THAT IRANIAN ARMY UNITS HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN CLASHES WITH IRAQIS OR HAVE FIRED INTO IRAQ. SPORADIC CLASHES REPORTED NEWSPAPER APPEAR TO BE BORNE BY GENDARMERIE AND RESISTANCE FORCES.

8. COMMENT: WISH NOTE THAT WHILE OPTIONS OPEN WINTER RAINS AND SNOWS WILL BEGIN THROUGHOUT THIS AREA IN SIX WEEKS TO TWO MONTHS. UNLESS THINGS CHANGE IN NEXT TWO OR THREE WEEKS SEEMS UNLIKELY IRANIANS WOULD OPT FOR MAJOR RETALIATION TO CONTINUED PROVOCATIONS, AT LEAST UNTIL SPRING.
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